November, 1990 under the heading "Drug Cos. to Defy Fresh Order to pay up dues";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that his Ministry asked 30 pharmaceutical companies to pay up the arrears by November, 9, 1990;

(c) what are the names of the companies and what is the amount due from each company;

(d) how many Companies have deposited the amount and what action has been taken against the defaulters:

(e) whether it is also a fact that notices have been issued to IDPL and other publice sector units; and

(f) if so, what is the amount due against each and since when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the companies have been asked to pay the balance amount due from them.

(c) to (f) Requisite details have been furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 396 answered on 31-12-1990.

Shortage of essential drugs

279. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

Whether there is a shortage of anti-T.B., anti-Cancer, anti-typhoid, anti-malaria, anti-pyretic and antibiotic drugs in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. P. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of these drugs in general. However, there was shortage in some areas, of some particular brands for which therapeutic equivalents were available.

ONGC officers sent abroad for training

280. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers sent for training abroad by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the last five years and the amount spend thereon;

(b) whether officers|employees belonging to Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes have also been set abroad for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) During the last five years i.e. from 1985-86 to 1989-90, 1843 officers including 97 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 11 belonging to Scheduled Tribes were sent by ONGC for training|workshops abroad. A sum of Rs. 6.85 crores was spent for the above purpose.

Shortage of medicine plants

281. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is continuous depletion in the sources of various herbs and plants required in the manufacture of various medicines in the country;

(b) whether Government have identified those herbs and plants; and if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government are taking or have taken so far to check extinction of such vital plants?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several medicinal plants like Rauwolfia serpentina, Saussurea-obvallata, Saussurea costus, Podophyllum henandrum, Coptis teeta, Picrorhiza kurroa, Aconitum heterophyllum, Dactylorhiza hetagirea are getting depleted due to over exploitation and forest clearings.

(c) Following steps have been taken for protection of endangered species of plants including plants of medicinal value:

(i) Highly endangered species of plants including medicinal plants are placed periodically in Appendix-I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which prohibits international trade in such plants. Export policy also prohibits export of certain rare medicinal plants and derivatives.

(ii) 71 National Parks have been set up which help in protection of threatened species of plants.

(iii) The Botanical Survey of India is cultivating several endangered plants species in their experimental gardens.

(iv) A scheme for Captive breeding of Endangered Species of plants has been introduced in the Botanical Survey of India recently.

(v) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are formulating a scheme to be operated during 8th Plan for providing financial assistance to various Government, Semi-Government, organisations for development and cultivation of identified medicinal plants.

Memorandum regarding conditions of the Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Bhubaneshwar

282. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 4th December, 1990, from Coordination Committee of Central Government Employees' and Workers' Associations and Unions, Bhubaneshwar, regarding the conditions of Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Bhubaneshwar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum relates to the condition of the building of the Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Bhubaneshwar, lack of research facilities in the Institute, lack of staff quarters, proper ventilation in the building etc. It has been sent to the Director, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha for his immediate attention and comments.

Demand of the CLTRI Employees Association, Chingalpattu

283. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 27th September, 1990 from the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute Employees Association, Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu);

(b) if so, what are the contents of the memorandum; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to settle the issues item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir, the Association has written a letter dated 27th September, 1990.

(b) and (c) The demands and the action thereon are as per Statement attached.